

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

DEFINITION

Collects samples and performs chemical, bacteriological, and biological analyses on sewage and industrial waste; calculates and records analytical results, maintains accurate records including quality assurance, and performs other related duties as required.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED

General supervision is provided by the Chemist.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

1. Takes representative grab and composite samples of sewage and sludge, as well as samples of landfill leachate and groundwater wells, including Skywest Golf Course groundwater wells and lakes.
2. Analyzes sewage, sludge, industrial waste, and potable water samples. Analyses include testing for, pH, solids, CBOD₅, oil and grease, coliform, chlorine residual, metals, cyanide, phenols, heterotrophic plate count, and special analyses as required.
3. Maintains quality control to assure analytical accuracy and precision of test results.
4. Operates, calibrates, and makes minor repairs to laboratory instrumentation such as pH meter, analytical balance, spectrophotometer (U.V.-visible, AA or ICP), autoclave, and microtox analyzer.
5. Plans and conducts laboratory operations in accordance with the state Chemical Hygiene Plan. Develops good personal chemical hygiene habits and uses prudent and careful work practices to ensure the safety of laboratory personnel.
6. Assures the quality of laboratory data which includes but is not limited to maintaining accurate records of sample collections, chains of custody, logs, analyses, reports and computerized records.
7. Prepares primary and secondary standard solutions.
8. Maintains clean and organized work area and equipment.

OTHER JOB RELATED DUTIES

1. Performs related duties as required.

QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- A. Quantitative analytical theory.
- B. General laboratory safety practices.
- C. Commonly used laboratory apparatus and procedures.
- D. Computers and their use in routine record keeping procedures.

Ability to:

- E. Discriminate visually among colors.
- F. Understand and carry out written and oral instructions pertaining to analytical procedures, reagent preparations, quality assurance and quality control.
- G. Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with other employees.
- H. Prepare written reports.
- I. Work weekends and occasional overtime.

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING

Any combination of experience and training that could likely provide the required knowledge and abilities would be qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

Education: Graduation from an accredited college with a Bachelor's degree in chemistry, biology or a related field of study.

OR

Certificate: Possession of a Laboratory Analyst Grade III Certificate issued by the California Water Environmental Association.

License: Possession of a valid Class C California driver's license.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

Essential duties require the following physical abilities and work environment: Ability to work independently in a standard laboratory environment, collect grab samples, safely handle hazardous chemicals, access counter tops, laboratory equipment and a personal computer.

PROBATIONARY PERIOD: One Year

637CS99

August 1962

Revised November 1999

APP GROUP: 5

FPPC STATUS: Non-Designated

FLSA STATUS: Non-Exempt